

## ORGANIZER'S LEAFLET

This leaflet provides some of the details and background necessary for us to explain what's happening with Ethnic Studies. Your discussions with community people should utilize these facts, but details are not necessary for the communities to know. They support ES because students were there when help was needed, not because they've been following the details of the budget cut and hiring practices at the University. (As expressed at the initial community meeting, most didn't know anything about ES at all except that "these kids helped us out when we needed it, and now they need help" so they wanted to reciprocate). The main thing is that we're facing possible non-existence and need help from them to save the program.

What they can do to help: Come with a group of community people to see the governor or President Cleveland---to tell the Governor or Cleveland that they feel ES is important and want to see it a permanent part of the U.H.

## FACT SHEET

### WHAT IS ETHNIC STUDIES?

The Ethnic Studies Program at the UH was started in 1970 with five courses: Hawaiian, Chinese, Japanese, Blacks, and a survey of ethnic groups. 300 students were enrolled. We had no community involvement. Since then, the program has grown to 730 students this semester, adding four more courses on Caucasians, Filipinos, Land Tenure in Hawaii, and Social Movements in Hawaii.

### WHAT DOES ES TEACH?

We teach a people's history. We teach about the lives and feelings of the ordinary working men and women, our parents and grandparents. We teach how the working people of all ethnic groups built Hawaii. How they worked in the cane fields. How they brought up their children. How they felt about other ethnic groups.

### ETHNIC STUDIES AND HAWAII TODAY

Local students learn about Hawaii's problems: Housing, welfare, land, jobs, and schools. They learn about these problems so that they can help to solve them.

### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

When you learn about the problems then you have to do something about them. Students work with communities to solve problems and help the people. This works two ways. The students learn more when they work and relate to community people and community people learn from the students.

## WHO TEACHES ETHNIC STUDIES?

There are 57 people on our teaching staff. Most of these are local students who work for \$80 a month. They do the work of regular professors, teach students, prepare lectures, and reading material. There is no difference between these staff and the faculty with degrees. We all make decisions about the direction and structure of the program.

## WHAT IS THE ETHNIC STUDIES BUDGET?

Ethnic Studies has never had much money. We support 730 students and 57 staff on \$102,000 a year. Most of the staff gets \$80 a month before taxes. For the money spent, a lot of work is done.

## HOW IS ETHNIC STUDIES BEING THREATENED?

Right now, the Ethnic Studies program is being threatened with a large budget cut. The University's budget was cut from \$60 million to \$45 million by the Legislature, so they are looking for ways to trim down costs. The way the University has operated in the past, big programs like engineering, English, sociology, etc. will probably end up with a better deal than small programs like Ethnic Studies, and Ethnic Studies will be sacrificed for the benefit of other programs and professors.

In other words, the University may wipe us out if we don't work to stop them!

The University has imposed a policy which could destroy Ethnic Studies: They have sent out what is now known as the Brown Memo. It says that "innovative programs" such as Ethnic Studies can only hire people that teach part-time in other departments, or else at a much lower pay scale. This means that we probably could not even hire our present staff for next year, either because they don't qualify or because the pay is too low for them to survive on.

The University will probably not make a decision about what happens to Ethnic Studies until sometime in late May or early June. This is after school gets out, when they won't have to worry about a lot of students on campus asking questions and supporting the program.

## WHAT WE HAVE DONE SO FAR?

1. Many Ethnic Studies staff members, students and community people spent long hours at the State Capitol this session, lobbying for the continued support of the program. Most of the legislators favored the program, but they said that we would have to deal with the University administration on specific money matters.
2. The House put a proviso into their version of the State budget which would have guaranteed us the same amount of money next year as we have in our budget this year. At the last minute this was dropped from the bill,

however, and we now have to take our chances with the University administration.

3. Ethnic Studies sent a letter to President Cleveland on April 18, asking him about our budget for next year, along with a lot of information about the program and letters of support from community groups, legislators and others. We asked him for a reply by April 23, last week Monday. He is stalling and we have still not received any answer even though the letter was delivered to him two weeks ago.